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EXAMINER

ONUAKU, CHRISTOPHER O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

DATE MAILED: 06/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/439,771

Applicant(s)  
Inoshita et al

Examiner  
Christopher O. Onuaku

Art Unit  
2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 6 6) ☐ Other:

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for the purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 13-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Okada et al (US 6,549,722).

Regarding claim 13, Okada et al disclose a method disk and apparatus for system encoding bitstreams to connect seamlessly thereof, including bitstreams for use in an authoring system for variously processing a data bitstream comprising video data, audio data, and sub-picture data constituting each of plural program titles containing related video, audio and sub-picture data content to generate a bitstream from which a new title containing the content desired

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by the user can be reproduced, and efficiently recording and reproducing the generated bitstream using a particular recording medium, comprising the method:

a) dividing each of the first image data and the second image data into a plurality of data units (VOBUs) each having an equal time length and an equal data size (see Fig.16; col.20, line 60 to col.22, line 13);

b) generating a data stream in which the data units of the first image data are arranged in a reproduction order, in which the data units of the second image data are arranged in a reproduction order, and in which each of the data units of the first image data and each of the data units of the second image data are alternately arranged (see Fig.70, col.36 lines 18-40); and

c) recording the data stream onto the recording medium (see Fig.2, col.10, lines 7-16; Fig.25, col.26, lines 16-31 and col.28, lines 54-59).

Regarding claim 14, Okada discloses the method wherein the data stream is generated in accordance with a DVD standard (see col.26, lines 15-31), and each of the plurality of data units includes one or a plurality of video object units (VOBUs) (see Fig.16&18; col.20, line 60 to col.22, line 13).

Regarding claim 15, Okada discloses the method wherein the first image data and the second image data are generated by converting variable rate compressed data by using an MPEG compression method into fixed rate compressed data (see col.24, lines 29-47).

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Regarding claim 16, Okada discloses the method wherein a plurality of data sets each comprising one of the data units of the first image data and one of the data units of the second image data that is located next to the one of the data units of the first image data are formed in the data stream, and audio data is added to each of the plurality of data sets in the process of generating the data stream (see Fig.16,17&18; col.21 line 63 to col.22, line 28).

Regarding claim 17, Okada discloses the method wherein a plurality of data sets each comprising one of the data units of the first image data and one of the data units of the second image data that is located next to the one of the data units of the first image data are formed in the data stream, and synchronization data is added to each of the plurality of data sets in the process of generating the data stream (see col.24, lines 38-55 and col.25, lines 48-57).

Regarding claim 18, the claimed limitations of claim 18 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 13 above.

Regarding claim 19, the claimed limitations of claim 19 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 14 above.

Regarding claim 20, the claimed limitations of claim 20 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 15 above.

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Regarding claim 21, the claimed limitations of claim 22 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 16 above.

Regarding claim 22, the claimed limitations of claim 22 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 17 above.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 1-12 are allowable over the prior art of record.
4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: .

Regarding claim 1, the invention relates to an image data reproducing method, and image data reproducing apparatus for reading compressed image data from a recording medium so as to reproduce the image data , and to image data recording method and an image data recording apparatus for compressing image data so as to write the compressed image data onto a recording medium.

The closest reference Okada et al (US 6,549,722) disclose a method disk and apparatus for system encoding bitstreams to connect seamlessly thereof, including bitstreams for use in an authoring system for variously processing a data bitstream comprising video data, audio data, and sub-picture data constituting each of plural program titles containing related video, audio and sub-picture data content to generate a bitstream from which a new title containing the content

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desired by the user can be reproduced, and efficiently recording and reproducing the generated bitstream using a particular recording medium.

However, Okada fails to explicitly disclose a method of reproducing at least first images and second images simultaneously, synchronizing the first images with the second images, where the method comprises the processes of wherein, on the recording medium, each of the first image data and the second image data is divided into a plurality of data units each having an equal time length, each of the data units of the first image data and each of the data units of the second image data are alternately arranged on the recording medium, the data units are sequentially read from the recording medium in on order of an arrangement of the data units recorded on the recording medium, the process of storing the first image data and the process of storing the second image data are alternately carried out for each of the data units, and the process of decoding the first image data and the process of the second image data are carried out at a same decoding rate in a parallel manner.

Regarding claim 7, the invention relates to an image data reproducing method, and image data reproducing apparatus for reading compressed image data from a recording medium so as to reproduce the image data , and to image data recording method and an image data recording apparatus for compressing image data so as to write the compressed image data onto a recording medium.

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The closest reference Okada et al (US 6,549,722) disclose a method disk and apparatus for system encoding bitstreams to connect seamlessly thereof, including bitstreams for use in an authoring system for variously processing a data bitstream comprising video data, audio data, and sub-picture data constituting each of plural program titles containing related video, audio and sub-picture data content to generate a bitstream from which a new title containing the content desired by the user can be reproduced, and efficiently recording and reproducing the generated bitstream using a particular recording medium.

However, Okada fails to explicitly disclose an apparatus for reproducing at least first images and second images simultaneously, synchronizing the first images with the second images, where the apparatus comprises wherein, on the recording medium, each of the first image data and the second image data is divided into a plurality of data units each having an equal time length, each of the data units of the first image data and each of the data units of the second image data are alternately arranged on the recording medium, the reading device sequentially reads the data units from the recording medium in on order of an arrangement of the data units recorded on the recording medium, an operation of storing the first image data into the first memory device and an operation of storing the second image data into the second memory device are alternately carried out for each of the data units, and the first decoding device and the second decoding device separately and simultaneously decode the first image data and the second image data at a same decoding rate.



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***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Nakai et al (US 5,999,698) teach a DVD capable of recording image and audio data on a signal recording medium and reproducing them in synchronism with each other, and a reproduction system thereof.

Yamauchi et al (US 6,381,398) teach an apparatus and method for creating film applications of a multiversion type and generating bitstream for seamless reproduction to be stored in optical discs, and a recording medium storing program run on the apparatus.

Kaneshige et al (US 6,360,055) teach recording method useful in recording video, sound, subvideo, etc on a recording medium such as an optical disk or the like, and a recording medium and a reproducing apparatus used with the method.

6.. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from this examiner should be directed to Christopher Onuaku whose telephone number is (703) 308-7555. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Monday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew B. Christensen, can be reached on (703) 308-9644.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

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**or faxed to:**

(703) 872-9314, (for formal communications intended for entry)

and (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Customer Service whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

*COO*  
COO

6/12/03

*[Signature]*  
THAI TRAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER